



Bad Kreuznach reservist win's USAR's Soldier of the Year

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany —Spc. Clinton T. Newman was recently selected as the U.S. Army Reserve's first-ever Soldier of the Year. Newman is an operations specialist with the 7th Army Reserve Command's 1st Armored Division's Rear Operations Center in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

Representing reservists from around the world, Newman was recognized at the first Army Reserve-wide Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year recognition banquet held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 19.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey, the Army Reserve's top enlisted leader, presented Newman with the Army's Meritorious Service Medal at the event.

With only one week to prepare for the competition, Newman wasn't expecting to dazzle the top NCOs that comprised the board. In fact, he thought the tour of D.C., including a visit to the white House and Arlington National Cemetery, which the competing reservists took the day before they had to appear at the board, would be the highlight of his trip. So when his name was announced at the banquet, the 21-year-old was momentarily stunned.

"I was very surprised. I didn't think I was going to win," he said. But as the news sank in, Newman realized the significance of the feat.

"I'm really proud," he said. "It's been a great honor to accept this award on behalf of the 7th ARCOM. I'm speechless."